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APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO
09 559,071	04 27 2000	Yuji Hamada	0039-7694-2S	2046

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

KIKNADZE, IRAKLI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2882	

DATE MAILED: 07 14 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/559,071	HAMADA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Irakli Kiknadze	2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1,2,4-10 and 12-16 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3 and 11 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed March 7, 2003 has been entered. Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. This Office action is response to the request for Continued Prosecution Application filed on May 2, 2003.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "device mounted" should change to -- device is mounted --.

Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "said beam condensing means" lacks proper antecedence. Perhaps "means" should read -- device-- Appropriate corrections are required.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1,2,4-10 and 12-16 are allowable over prior art of record. Claims 3 and 11 are objected to but would be allowable if amended to overcome the ~~rejection~~ ^{objection}.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-13, 15 and 16 are allowed because prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a noncontact type signal transmission device comprising: a first member; a

6/30/03

second member configured to move along a predetermined orbit with respect to the first member; and at least one beam condensing device disposed between at least one light-emitting device and one light-receiving device mounted on one of the first and second members and having a function of condensing light from the light-emitting device in a direction substantially parallel to a rotation axis of the second member as claimed in claims 1, 15 or 16. Claims 2-13 are allowed by virtue of their dependence.

Claim 14 is allowed because prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an X-ray computed tomography apparatus comprising: a unit for generating image data on the basis of the signal transmitted through the noncontact type signal transmission device comprising: a plurality of light-emitting devices discretely arranged on an outer surface of a rotating ring inside a stationary portion with a plurality of light-receiving devices discretely arranged on an inner surface; and a plurality of beam condensing devices arranged between the light-emitting devices and the light-receiving devices and having the function of condensing light in a direction parallel to a rotation axis of the rotating ring as claimed in claim 14.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Watanabe et al. (US Patent 5,336,897), Kedmi et al. (US Patent 5,354,993), Keller (US Patent 4,996,435), Krumme (US Patent 4,259,584), Vekstein et

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al. (US Patent 5,134,639) disclose the optical systems for transmitting data between the stationary parts and the rotating parts.

6. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: disclosed above in Claim Objections regarding claims 3 and 11.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

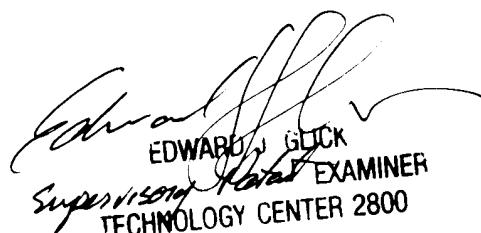
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is (703) 305-6464. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (703) 308-4858. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Irakli Kiknadze
June 30, 2003


EDWARD J. GLICK
Supervisory Patent Examiner
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800